



May 2023  
Volume 5  
Issue #2

# THE TASC CONNECTION



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Connect with us!







## Meet the President

Have you met this year's president? The TASC 2023-2024 officers were sworn in on April 19th. Get to know the current board and meet them in person at RISE23! Or join a committee to get more involved this year...

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## National Treatment Court Month

May is *National Treatment Court Month* and is observed by several organizations across the country. Looking for ways to make an impact? Use this **TOOLKIT** as a guide to sharing the success of treatment courts.

# TOOLKIT

May 2023  
All Rise






“I wish to  
thank  
each of  
you for  
serving...”

Judge Paul White

## Legislative Watch List

### TASC Committee Chair Passes the Torch

In recent times, Judge Paul White served as Chair to the TASC Legislative Committee. In his role, he recruited several members to join him in watching relevant legislation that could impact Texas specialty courts. He shined a light on legislation that TASC members should be aware of and discussed TASC’s position on the matter with the board. Along with the committee co-chairs, Judge Larry Phillips and Julie Turnbull, he worked diligently to oversee this project. The board recognized the importance of the Committee’s work and voted to create a new role, Legislative Director, to ensure this work continues to expand.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Judge White handed the reigns over to Judge Aurora Martinez Jones of Travis County, as the newly elected Legislative Director, whom he believed to be “imminently qualified” for the new role and “passionate with a vision to advance the interests of TASC.”

Before retiring, Judge White left the latest review of legislative proposals relevant to specialty courts and sent a message to the committee thanking everyone for serving. The Board is grateful for his service to TASC and wish him well on his future endeavors. He will be missed.

*Snapshot May 19, 2023:*

BILL	STATUS	DATE
HB7	Set for public hrg in Senate	May 18 <sup>th</sup>
HB299	Set for public hrg in Senate	May 17 <sup>th</sup>
HB541	Passed both House & Senate; Sent to Governor	May 18 <sup>th</sup>
HB1184	Passed the Senate	May 18 <sup>th</sup>
HB1907	Ref’d to Senate State Affairs Comm.	May 15 <sup>th</sup>
HB1977	Passed House 5/8; Recv’d in Senate	May 9 <sup>th</sup>
HB2741	Set for public hrg.	May 19 <sup>th</sup>





# 2023-2024 TASC BOARD

## Meet the Team!

### 2023–2024 TASC Officers

On April 19th, the new slate of TASC board officers were sworn in during the *Annual Membership Meeting*, held via zoom. This year’s president is Erin Morgan, a Senior Probation Officer of Travis County. You can meet Erin and most of the board in person at NADCP’s RISE23 Conference in June. Want to get more involved? [Contact](#) a board member to learn how you can join a committee.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

<i>Region 1</i>	Judge Yolanda Huff	Bexar County
<i>Region 2</i>	Kimberly Duran	Dallas County
<i>Region 3</i>	Judge Jeff M. Addison	Bowie & Red River Counties
<i>Region 4</i>	Judge John B. Board	Potter County
<i>Region 5</i>	Faustino Lopez	Hidalgo County
<i>Region 6</i>	Craig Fritz	Brazoria County
<i>Region 7</i>	Allen Bell	Midland County
<i>Harris County</i>	Judge Kelli Johnson	Harris County
<i>Bexar County</i>	Judge Ernie L. Glenn	Bexar County
<i>Dallas County</i>	Judge La’Donna Harlan	Dallas County
<i>At Large Place #1</i>	Rosie Medina	El Paso County
<i>At Large Place #2</i>	Lori Compton	Kaufman County

### Executive Committee:

*President*

Erin Morgan  
Travis County

*President Elect*

Judge Larry Phillips  
Grayson County

*Vice President*

Judge Elizabeth Rainey  
Midland County

*Treasurer*

Mary Covington  
Harris County

*Secretary*

Stephen Ellison  
Midland County

*Communication Director*

Elizabeth “Liz” Wiggins  
Travis County

*Legislative Director*

Judge Aurora  
Martinez Jones  
Travis County

*Executive Director*

Amber Gregory  
Walker County

# TASC Awards

## 2023 Recipients

The 2023 TASC Award Winners were announced at the annual Membership Meeting, on April 19, 2023. See selected award winners below. *Congratulations and well done!*

AWARD TYPE	RECIPIENT
<i>Joel Bennett Recovery</i>	Faith Bowen Harris County
<i>Judge John C. Creuzot</i>	Judge Yolanda Huff Bexar County
<i>Judge Ruben G. Reyes</i>	Dallas County DIVERT Court
<i>Mary Covington</i>	Georgia Kimmey Angelina County
<i>Rusty Ladd Scholarship</i>	Ashlea White Midland County

# Resources

## New & Old, Ready to Use

### Mental Health Courts

JCMH previously published the [10-Step Guide](#) and recently launched the companion [Video](#).

### Technical Assistance

These organizations offer TA: [SCRC](#), the [NADCP](#), the [JCMH](#), [CCI](#), [NPC Research](#), and [NTTAC](#).

### Online Training

You can find online training videos at [NDCI](#), [Treatment Courts](#), [AEquitas](#), and the [Justice Center](#).

**HAVE A RESOURCE TO SHARE?**

Click **HERE**

# Events

June 6-8, Online

[NAMICon 2023](#)

June 11-14, Austin, TX

[17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Managing Juveniles w/Sexual Behavior Problems](#)

June 12-15, Allen, TX

[2023 Leadership for Support Staff Conference](#)

June 26-29, Houston, TX

[NADCP RISE23 Conference](#)

June 29-30, Houston, TX

[TASC Board Retreat](#)

# RISE23

## Spotlight Presenters

You can catch several Bexar County judges on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 am when they present *Educating the Community About Specialty Courts*.

Welcome to the world's premier conference on addiction, mental health, and justice reform.



PRESENTERS

Hon. Yolanda Huff

Hon. Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez

Hon. Ernie Glenn



# DALLAS NEWS

## DIVERT Court Celebrates 25 Years!

On May 16, 2023, the Dallas Initiative for Expedited Recovery and Treatment (DIVERT) Court team, led by The Honorable Hector Garza, held their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration along with their most recent graduation. In attendance were a number of local dignitaries, and TASC was on hand to present the team with the 2023 Judge Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding Specialty Court Team award. The Honorable John Creuzot gave a brief history of the program he started, a DIVERT alumnus told her very poignant story of recovery, Judge Garza announced a generous donation from the family of a prior DIVERT graduate, and one of the participants who was graduating that night announced during his speech that he was matching the donation in order to assist future participants with recovery needs. It was an inspirational celebration and would have made Judge Reyes very proud. Congratulations to the DIVERT Court team members, stakeholders, and participants!

## District Attorney's Office Sponsors Specialized Training

DCDAO sponsored HEAT and HER Training May 8-12, 2023. The West Dallas Multipurpose Center welcomed 25 counselors and probation officers from IPS (Dallas), Tarrant County CSCD, Women in Recovery Family & Children's Services (Tulsa, OK), Nexus Recovery Center (Dallas), and Dallas County CSCD. The training included five full days of learning and facilitating the HEAT and HER Treatment Program Modalities supported by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). Counselors and probation officers learned gender specific interventions effective for disenfranchised minority populations involved in the criminal justice system. Such treatment models will provide culturally responsive treatment to specialty court diversion programs in Dallas County.

*"When implemented correctly and with fidelity... evidence-based solutions can reduce recidivism and drive down crime." John Creuzot*

